

been unable to achieve through legislation. As Majority Leader McCONNELL previously explained, legislation can be repealed, but “[w]hat can’t be undone is a lifetime appointment.”

In the past, this lifetime appointment was viewed as an important protection to ensure courts remained independent and fair minded. Now, it is being weaponized as a tool to enforce extreme, conservative policies through the confirmation of deeply partisan and ideologically driven judicial nominees.

In the past 2-and-a-half years, we have seen why it is so critical to have fair and independent courts. As Senate Republicans race to pack the courts with more and more partisan judges with extreme ideologies, the integrity and independence of the Federal judiciary is at stake.

Americans must be able to trust that courts act fairly and impartially to protect the rights of all Americans. That is why I will vote against Matthew Kacsmayk’s nomination today.

#### 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN LEGION

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, today I wish to recognize the 100th anniversary of the American Legion. Following the end of World War I, the generation who fought the war to end all wars created an organization dedicated to the protection and defense of all veterans who answered the call of duty.

The American Legion has been our Nation’s leading advocate for proper healthcare and earned benefits for America’s veterans, establishing hospitals and other services for the returning servicemembers of World War I. The Legion champions compensation and pensions for the disabled and for widows and orphans and was instrumental in creating the Veterans Administration in 1930. It also played an important role in the enactment of the GI Bill of Rights, first for World War II veterans, and then for veterans of following eras, establishing education, vocational training, and home loan benefits.

Known as the father of the American Legion, Lt. Colonel Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., son of President Roosevelt, organized the first caucus of the American Legion in Paris in March 1919. The meeting continued in St. Louis in May 1919 where the official name was adopted. A preamble and constitution were adopted during the first National American Legion Convention in Minneapolis in November 1919. The preamble became one of the fundamental tenets of the American Legion’s orientation and objectives, beginning with: “For God and Country we associate ourselves together for the following purposes:

To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States of America; to maintain law and order; to foster and perpetuate a 100 Percent Americanism; to preserve the memories and

incidents of our association in the Great War; to inculcate a sense of individual obligation to the community, state, and nation; to combat the autocracy of both the classes and the masses; to make right the master of might; to promote peace and good will on earth; to safeguard and transmit to prosperity the principles of justice, freedom, and democracy; to consecrate and sanctify our comradeship by devotion to mutual helpfulness.”

Through the work of American Legionnaires, those same words remain compelling today. With members represented in all facets of our culture, including Presidents, Governors, Academy award winning actors, professional sports players, and Members of Congress, the American Legion played a role in many of America’s triumphs. Today’s Legionnaires, known for their legacy of patriotism, service, sacrifice, and community, continue the march. They dedicate their time and service to ensure these doctrines remain the heart of the American Legion.

The American Legion has deep roots in Wyoming’s history. Wyoming was represented in both Paris and St. Louis and at the first National Convention in Minneapolis. True to their pioneering nature, Wyoming’s Ferdinand Bransetter Post No. 1 organized to situate themselves at the forefront of the Legion organization. However, due to the bureaucracy encountered by the first posts, Van Tassel was actually among the first 10 posts to be chartered.

In October 1919, Wyoming held its First American Legion Convention, hosted by Samuel Mares Post No. 8 in Douglas. The first department officers included Commander Charles S. Hill and Adjutant Harry Fisher. Department headquarters was originally in Casper, later moving to Cheyenne as membership gradually grew to a high of 10,805 in 1949.

Today’s Wyoming American Legions continues to care for their comrades. As leaders in their communities, they demonstrate honor and respect for veterans and their loved ones. They actively support numerous youth programs including Boys and Girls State, the Child Welfare Fund, Boy Scouts, baseball, and scholarship programs. Their accomplishments continue to grow as they serve our veterans, their families, and our communities.

Today’s Wyoming American Legion is comprised of 57 posts. Their leadership includes Commander Richard F. Dansereau, Jr., Vice Commander Mike Cooke, 2nd Vice Commander Jerry Clark, Immediate Past Commander Kenneth V. Persson, Sr., Finance Officer Deanna Hurless, National Executive Committeeman Terry Miller, Alternate National Executive Committeeman Doug Uhrig, Adjutant Lee Buchschacher, Department Service Officer Dwight Null, Service Officer Michelle Jones, Historian Penny Merryfield, Chaplain Jim Vandivort, Judge Advocate Gary Hartman, and Office Manager Gina Mayhan.

Current posts and their commanders are:

Commander	Post	Town
Dale Miller	Ferdinand Bransetter Post #1	Van Tassel
Rich Larimore	George W. Vroman Post #2	Casper
Donald Dafeo	George Monroe Post #3	Newcastle
David Shaner	Wieten-Dupes Post #4	Lusk
Michael Sinner	Travis Snow Post #5	Torrington
Jerry Bowen	Francis E. Self Post #6	Cheyenne
James Schlenker	John Donald Garbutt Post #7	Sheridan
Doug Johnson	Samuel Mares Post #8	Douglas
Marvin Wohletz	Jesse Martin Post #9	Glenrock
Darrel Curry	Ora Call Post #10	Wheatland
Rich Fink	Robert Boyd Stewart Post #11	Lovell
Don Sullivan	Powder River Post #13	Buffalo
Jonathan Storey	Husted-Pendleton Post #14	Laramie
Adam Blackburn	John Prince Post #15	Glendo
Nate Messenger	Walter Haynes Post #18	Thermopolis
Warren Hess	Riverton Post #19	Riverton
John West	Fred Coe Post #20	Cody
Michael Pavlica	Robert Hogan Post #21	Cheyenne
Michael Hobbs	Archie Hay Post #24	Rock Springs
Tim Wattenberg	Moorcroft Post #25	Moorcroft
Jerry Clark	Hughes-Pittinger Post #26	Powell
Thomas Niemiec	Tom Whitmore Post #28	Green River
John Bubla	Marian Tanner Post #29	Basin
Douglas Cubbison	Phillip Burlington Post #31	Dubois
Paul Linse	Greybull Post #32	Greybull
Mark Keiser	Don Stough Post #33	Lander
Brian Sartor	Fort Bridger Post #36	Ft. Bridger
Norm Freeman	Lavoy-Thorncock Post #40	Cokeville
Michael Erickson, Jr.	Medicine Butte Post #41	Evanston
Jerry Walters	Campbell County Post #42	Gillette
John Sherwood	Jackson Hole Post #43	Jackson
Joshua Craft	Floyd Minch Post #44	Worland
Jimmy Bowman	Crook County Post #45	Sundance
Daniel Corun	American Legion Post #46	Alpine
Brandon Shriver	Phillips Edwards Post #47	Pinedale
Charles Sutter	Star Valley Post #49	Afton
Steve Wilcoxson	Angus England Post #54	Saratoga
Robert Bowen	Kemmerer Post #55	Kemmerer-Diamondville Veteran
Ricardo Nelson	Marilyn B. Anderson Post #56	
John Wise	Donald W. Eisenhower Post #60	Pine Bluffs
Albert Oakley	Washakie Post #61	Pavillion
David Kendall	Reed-Gobble Post #63	Lingle
Marion McCartney	William Home Post #64	Medicine Bow
Donald Kessler	John McGill Post #70	LaGrange
Robert Kissel	Mcdonald And Voight Post #75	Chugwater
Ronnie Olson	Boyce Marlatt Post #77	Albin
Spencer Nichols	Dee Fox Post #78	Big Piney-Marbleton
Keith Davidson	Roy Montgomery Post #80	Hulett
Wyman Weed, Sr.	Richard Pogue Post #81	Ft. Washakie
James Yockey	James Oliver Hogg Post #85	Meeteetse
Ray Fritz	Labarge Post #88	LaBarge
Robert Perry, Jr.	Hole In The Wall Post #90	Kaycee
Kelly Colvin	Heart Mountain Post #91	Cody
Jack Flores	Garcia-Castaneda Post #93	Cheyenne
Nick Schwab	J.J. Webb Post #95	Guernsey
Martin Blackburn	Arapaho Warriors-CPL Bill Farris Post #96	Arapaho
Mike Sherr	Hittner Engstrom-Duncan Post #122	Rawlins

The American Legion is more than the names of men who fell on the battlefield in the name of freedom, liberty and democracy. They are more than buildings or posts. They are the lifeblood of our country, endowed with the never-ending spirit of patriotism and liberty. They will never quit, they will never falter and will always complete their mission. America and the State of Wyoming are better for it.

#### TRIBUTE TO STANLEY P. LAWRUK, SR.

Mr. COONS. Madam President, on the 75th anniversary of D-Day, I wish to honor a member of our Greatest Generation, Stanley P. “Lucky” Lawruk, Sr., of Wilmington, DE. Stanley P. Lawruk, a lifelong Delawarean, served in the U.S. Army Air Corps at the Battle of Normandy and throughout World War II.

On D-Day, June 6, 1944, 20-year-old Technical Sergeant Stanley Lawruk was on his fourth combat mission as